REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination of the present application. The Office Action mailed January 29, 2008 rejected claims 1-10 and 31-33. This is a full and timely response to that outstanding Office Action. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1-10 and 31-33 are pending. More specifically, claims 1, 2, and 10 are amended and claims 11-30 and 34-36 are canceled. No new matter is added to the present application by these amendments. Claims 11-30 and 31-34 are canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicants take this action merely to reduce the number of issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate any of the canceled subject matter to the public. These amendments are specifically described hereinafter.

I. Present Status of Patent Application

Claim 2 is objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for allegedly failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claims 1-10 and 31-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. To the extent that these rejections have not been rendered moot by the cancellation of claims, they are respectfully traversed.

II. Objection to Claim 2

Claim 2 is objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for allegedly failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Although Applicants respectfully disagree, in an effort to address the Examiner's concerns and to facilitate prosecution on the merits, claim 2 has been amended to recite "wherein nanofiller particulates are curable liquid crystals selected from the group consisting of low viscosity oligomeric liquid crystals, reactive monomeric liquid crystals, and combinations thereof." In view of this amendment, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to claim 2 should be withdrawn.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Office Action rejects claims 1-10 and 31-33 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement.

A. Claim 1

Claim 1 is rejected for allegedly containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Although Applicants respectfully disagree, in an effort to address the Examiner's concerns and to facilitate prosecution on the merits, claim 1 has been amended to recite "wherein the nanofiller particulates are dispersed within the build material such that the nanofiller particulates comprise from 0.1 wt% to 20 wt% of

the build material." In view of this amendment, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to claim 1 should be withdrawn.

B. Claim 10

Claim 10 is rejected for allegedly containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention, namely "'approximately' appears to extend the particle size beyond the range disclosed at the time of filing." Applicants respectfully disagree.

"The word 'substantially' in patent claims gives rise to some definitional leeway. Thus, the word 'substantially' may prevent avoidance of infringement by minor changes that do not affect the results sought to be accomplished." *C. E. Equipment Co. v. United States*, 17 Cl. Ct. 293, 13 U.S.P.Q.2d 1363, 1368 (Cl. Ct. 1989). Additionally, "the term 'substantially' is a descriptive term commonly used in patent claims to 'avoid a strict numerical boundary to a specified parameter.' Terms such as 'approach each other,' 'close to,' 'substantially equal,' and 'closely approximate' are ubiquitously used in patent claims and that such usages, when serving reasonably to describe the claimed subject matter to those of skill in the field of the invention, and to distinguish the claimed subject matter from the prior art, have been accepted in patent examination and upheld by the courts." *Ecolab Inc. v. Envirochem Inc.*, 264 F.3d 1358, 60 U.S.P.Q.2d 1173, 1178, 1179 (Fed. Cir. 2001).

Therefore, since "substantially" has been used to avoid a strict numerical boundary to a specified parameter, as expressly allowed for by the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals, Applicants respectfully submit that the use of "substantially" is proper in this situation and the objection to claim 10 should be withdrawn.

IV. Miscellaneous Issues

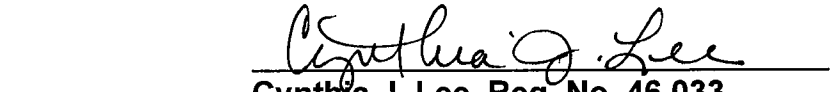
Any other statements in the Office Action that are not explicitly addressed herein are not intended to be admitted. In addition, any and all findings of inherency are traversed as not having been shown to be necessarily present. Furthermore, any and all findings of well-known art and official notice, or statements interpreted similarly, should not be considered well known for the particular and specific reasons that the claimed combinations are too complex to support such conclusions and because the Office Action does not include specific findings predicated on sound technical and scientific reasoning to support such conclusions.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 1-10 and 31-33 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

It is believed that no extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to deposit account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,



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